

237 On the other hand, the hides of all of these
[439] three animals had been traded off to the Mexicans,
[182] but this again was now discarded. This would
merely indicate the fluctuation of collapse of the
demand from the outside rather than any intrinsic
change in the Seri values.

Incidental use of the horns of the bighorn had
been denied by all of the younger informants al-
though admitted by Miguel Barnett. However, as
[415] I observed, the horns of this sheep are sometimes
[181] used as drinking cups. Several of them were
lying around in the usual disorderly way of the
Seris, now and then picked up for drinking and
then again discarded. But the use of them struck
me as most casual.

224 Hunting: Hunting takes a variety of forms
411 and includes a variety of weapons, from .22 cali-
ber and .30/.30 caliber rifles to spear, stone and
throwing stick. Bighorn and deer are followed on
foot but without dogs, probably because without
dogs they may be easier to surprise. This hunt
takes place in daytime. But the peccary is hunted
with both the spear and the rifle and with a pack
of dogs, and only by the adult men. There is an
emphasis on the "adult," this surely owing to the
certain amount of danger connected with the
chase of the peccaries. The weapons of the chase
dwindle to the throwing stick or a stone when it
comes to the jackrabbit. Badgers, I was told, are
also killed with the same weapons. But formerly,
the informants said, bow and arrow was much
instrumental in hunting the smaller beasts.

* 825 Other animals, according to the Seris, are not
[224] hunted now, nor had they been in the past. Justifi-
cation for this ranged from the usual "because it
isn't done" to the more specific reasons. The
skunk is "neither hunted nor eaten because it
[225] stinks." The whale is considered "too big to kill"
while the killer whale is "too fierce." The harm-
less *tonita* (dolphin) was reported somewhat
hazily as "sometimes killed" but the comments
were inconclusive and were denied by other in-
formants.

[224] Two other species had been reported as hunted
in the past but not at the present time. The Ring-
tail cat was supposedly hunted with the slings
while the sea lion was hunted down "with a rifle
[225] or rock but not with the harpoon because of its
great strength, it would break the harpoon." This,
however, was "perhaps 25 years ago." Why the
sea lion is no longer pursued is uncertain, unless
there is again a lack of demand from the outside
while the Serian economy is so much centered
on fishing.

231 Pets: How many species of animals are kept
as pets on and off is difficult to say. Like most
hunting and gathering groups the Seris are fond
of pets but their interest in them depends entire-
ly on an accidental capture. Among the wild
mammals of the region there are few that could
be captured and tamed easily. The badger which
I mentioned already was the only mammal I saw

[237] I have seen bones of beached whales used for stools and
[352] also the skull of the *tonita* used as a chair. But it must
be remembered that these animals got stranded on the
beach. They were not deliberately hunted down.

[P. 10 B]

1/2 [i.e. - deer, bighorn and peccary - Analyst]